

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMM DIATE 9563

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

A *MBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LOND N

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AM MBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAW*

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY*Y ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION U*NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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S E C R E T BR SSELS 0141

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EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, EEC, BE

SUB: PRESIDENTIAL INVITATION TO ENERGY CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: FONMIN VAN *LSLANDE EXPRESSED ASTONISHMENT
D DISPLEASURE AT U.S. APPROACH ON EAG. HE
OBJECTED TO INDIVI*DUAL INVITATIONS TO CERTAIN EC
C UNTRIES, RATHER THAN LEAVING ENTIRE QUESTION OF
EC REPRESENTATION TO DECISION OF EC NINE. THIS HE UNDERSTOOD
TO HAVE BEEN THE MEANING OF THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH TO PILGRIMS.
SSU*SEQUENTLY, DAVI*NON TOLD ME THA GOB SENDING LETT RS TO EC
PART ERS URGING THEM NOT TO MAKE REPLY * PRESIDENT'S INVITATION
BEFORE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING SCHEDULED JANUARY 14. END SUMMARY.

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2 IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS I BRIEFED FOREIGN MINISTER

VAN ELSLANDE ON PRESIDENT'S LETTERS TO CERTAIN CONSUMER AND PRODUCER COUNTRIES. *IMPRESSED ON THE MINISTER OUR DESIRE THAT THE INFORMATION NOT BE DIVULGED UNTIL JANUARY 11 AND FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT, COMPLYING WITH OUR WISH, HE WOULD POSTPONE SCHEDULED SENATE COMMISSION APPEARANCE FOR TOMORROW AT WHICH HE WAS TO HAVE DISCUSSED ENERGY POLICY.

3. * TOOK SPECIAL PAINS TO STRESS SPECIAL PROVISION IN LETTER TO CHANCE *OR BRANDT, LEAVING TO HIM AS PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL TO DECIDE HOW THE EC WOULD PARTICIPATE. I EXPLAINED THAT WE HAD CONSIDERED IT MOST APPROPRIATE TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT NOW OF KEY COUNTRIES OUTSIDE OF EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL FORUMS, BUT HOPED AT AN EARLY DATE TO HAVE BROADER REPRESENTATION. I POINTED TO FACT THAT INVITEES ARE ALL MEMBERS OF HIGH LEVEL *6 AND INFORMED HIM OF INVITATION EXTENDED TO SECRETARY GENERAL VAN LENNEP.

4. VAN ELSLANDE, RESPONDING SOMEWHAT LESS THAN DISPASSIONATELY, SAID THAT HE WAS "ASTONISHED" BY THE US APPROACH TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COUNTRIES. THE US "KEY COUNTRIES" APPROACH COULD ONLY *ED DIVISIONS IN THE COMMUNITY, MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY, AND BRACKET OUT THE CRITICAL OIL QUESTION FROM THE US/EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DIALOGUE.

5. FRANCE, *E SAID, WILL NOW *NJOY THE GREAT LEVERAGE OFFERED BY DUAL MEMBERSHIP IN BOTH THE COMMUNITY AND THE *WASHINGTON TASK FORCE. FRANCE, AND GREAT BRITAIN AS WELL, WILL HAVE LITTLE INCENTIVE TO SUPPORT MEANINGFUL EC REPRESENTATION. PERHAPS, SAID THE MINISTER, THE FRENCH AND THE BRITISH INFLUENCED US IN DECIDING U.S. APPROACH.

6. VAN ELSLANDE SAID THE US APPROACH SEEMED DIRECTLY CONTRARY TO THE ASSURANCE IN SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PILGRIMS SPEECH IN WHICH HE SAID, " WE WOULD *EAVE IT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NINE WHETHER THEY PREFER TO PARTICIPATE AS THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY." CONSCIOUSNESS WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE US WOULD FIRST HAVE PROBED THE THINKING--"FEEL THE PULSE"--OF THE EC-9 VIA CHANCELLOR BRANDT, ASKING THE EUROPEANS HOW THEY WANTED TO BE REPRESENTED AT * WASHINGTON MEETING.

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7. THE US APPROACH VAN ELSLANDE CONCLUDED, INVITES AND ENCOURAGES EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO PROCEED OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY. THUS, THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PLAY ROLE OF "STABILIZER" AMONG THE CONSUMER STATES AND IN THE EAG. THIS, IN TURN, WOULD WEAKEN THE POSITION OF *E CONSUMER COUNTRIES AS A GROUP. CONCERNING VAN ELSLANDE'S ARGUMENTS I REMINDED HIM OF OPPORTUNITY FOR EC REPRESENTATION AFFORDED IN

PRESIDENT'S LETTER O BRANDT AND POINTED*OUT THAT*US APPROACH
IN FA*T NOT INCONSISTENT W*TH PILGRIMS SPEECH.

8. F LOWING MY CALL ON THE FOREIGN MINI*TER, I CALLED ON
FOREIGN OFFICE DIRGEN DAVIGNON AT*HIS REQUEST. DAVIGNON TOLD ME
THAT*THE GOB WOULD, THIS AFTERNOON, SEND LETTERS TO THE EIGH
OTHER EC MEMBERS, ASKING THAT NO REPLY BE MADE TO THE PRESIDENT'S
INVITATION BEFORE MONDAY'S MEETING OF THE EC OREIGN MINISTERS.
IN THIS COMMUNICATION THE BELGIANS PLAN TO INSIST ON THE URGENT
NEED FOR A COMMUNITY POLICY VIS-A-VIS THE EAG AND STRESS THAT
THE EC SHOULD SPE K WITH ONE VOICE*WITHIN THE EAG.?

9. DAVIGNON SAID THAT THER WERE "MANY WAYS IN WHICH THE
EC COULD BE REPR SENTED, BUT THAT HE TOOK UMBRAG AT THE IDEA
OF*FRANCE BEING REPR*SENTED BOTH IN HER OWN RIGHT AND AS A
MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY. HE ADDED THAT, U ER THE PROPOSED
ARRANGEMENTS, CONTRIES SUCH AS*FRANCE, UK AND, INDEED,
THE*DUTCH COULD AND;WOULD PURSUE THE*R OWN NATIONAL P*R*OSES
WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE IN *RESTS OF THE COMMUNITY. DAVIGNON
SAID THAT IN T MORROW'S PRESS *COMMUNIQUE GOB W*ULD NOT CONVEY
IS "WORRIES" BUT WOULD STRESS IMPORTANCE OF EC PARTICIPATION.

10. COMMENT* I PRESUME THA* THE URGENT APPROACH TO BE BY
D*VIGNON YESTERDAY*(BRUSSELS 098 NOTAL) WAS MADE IN THE HOPE
THAT THE GOB COULD *EAD OFF THE PROCEDURE WHICH HAS NOW
BEEN ADOPTED. BELGIAN ANNOY*NCE IS OBVIOUSLY IRECTED BOTH
AT THE US AND AT ITS EC PARTNERS S*NGLED OUT BY US. AS I SEE IT,
THE GOB THOUGH *OMEWHAT UPSET AT THE EXCLUSION OF *ELGIUM
ITSELF (BELGIAN IMPORTS OF CRUDE ARE NOT MUCH LESS THAN THOSE OF THE
NETHERLANDS) SEEMS TO BE MORE PUT OUT BY THE ALLEGED
DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF DIFFERENT MEMBERS OF THE
COMMUNITY. IN BRIEF, THE LONE WOLF IS BEING REWARDED FOR HIS
OBSTREPEROUS BEHAVIOR. WE C*N ANTICIPATE, THEREFORE, THAT THE
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